



Theodore Roosevelt Dam Centennial

Friday, March 18, 2011

Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you, and good afternoon, everyone!

Standing here 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt said:

"If there could be any monument which would appeal to any MAN, surely this is it."

Well, I'm sure Teddy wouldn't mind if I added, "If there could be any monument which would appeal to any man – OR WOMAN -- surely this is it."

I'm sure that's what he meant to say, any way.

The Theodore Roosevelt Dam was built at a place the early pioneers called "THE CROSSING."

The crossing in the Salt River was where Indians, farmers, and ranchers would ford the river, in the narrow gorge just below the confluence of the Salt River and Tonto Creek.

The crossing.

I think that is a fitting name -- as Arizona crosses between two centuries – our first and second, paying tribute to the courage and labors of those who settled this great land – and built great monuments for us to celebrate 100 years later.

Next February 14th, we will commemorate the day President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation declaring Arizona the 48th State of the Union.

The Arizona Centennial -- like this wonderful Theodore Roosevelt Dam Centennial -- is an opportunity for all Arizonans to share our great pride in this wonderful state we are privileged to call home.

It's a pride that comes from the heart-- the heart of people who stand together, honoring their history and culture, and looking toward a future with steadfast confidence.

This century-old dam is the cornerstone of Salt River Project's water-management system, and is considered the nation's most successful multipurpose reclamation project.

President Roosevelt's signature on the Reclamation Act of 1902 supplied the funding mechanism for the dam -- and other projects -- triggering the development of the Salt River Valley and the greater Phoenix metropolitan area by providing an assured water supply.

So, it is my great honor to present this proclamation to you, David, and the Salt River Project, which says, in part:

WHEREAS, the Theodore Roosevelt Dam was the first major structure built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on the Salt River, and, when completed, was then the world's tallest masonry dam; and

WHEREAS, through its partnerships with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service, and subsequent projects, SRP has for more than one hundred years nurtured the central Arizona communities it was formed to serve -- and remains committed to the principles of vision, leadership and resource stewardship as it moves through the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, March 18, 2011, marks the Centennial Anniversary of the official dedication of Theodore Roosevelt Dam.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim March 18, 2011 as:

THEODORE ROOSEVELT DAM CENTENNIAL DAY!

Thank you.